GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF KHANNA COMMITTEE
A.K. PREMAJAM;T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was Justice Khanna Commission Report submitted to the Government;

(b) whether the Government have taken action on the basis of recommendations of the Commission,especially with regard to the safety of Rail bridges which are obsolete; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.163 BY PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM AND SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02-08-2001 REGARDING IMPLEMENTATIOI RECOMMENDATIONS OF KHANNA COMMITTEE

(a) Railway Safety Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R.Khanna, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, has submitted its report in two Parts. Part-I of their Report was submitted in August, 1999 and the same has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament. Part-II (Final) report has been submitted in February, 2001 and is presently under consideration of the Government. `Views of M/O Railways` on the recommendations of Pt.I Report of Railway Safety Review Committee-98 have been sent to Parliament Library.

(b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Action has already been initiated to implement accepted recommendations of Part-I of the Khanna Committee Report depending upon availability of resources.

The Committee recommended a super check by a task force of `distressed` bridges and bridges over 100 years in age or of Early steel within one year and rehabilitation of `distressed` bridges within a time span of 5 years along with fresh accruals. The Committee had noted that 262 bridges are classified as `distressed` on Indian Railways as on 01-4-1999. As on date, 171 bridges out of these 262 have been rehabilitated. Indian Railway has an elaborate system of inspection of all bridges and of carrying out required repairs / rehabilitation.

The Committee also stated that Indian Railways` present inventory of overaged assets transmuted into money terms is Rs.15,000 crores. Committee recommended that in the interest of safety, the Central Government should provide a one-time grant to the Railways so that arrears in renewal of track, bridges, rolling stock and signal gear are wiped out within a fixed time frame. The Government has agreed in principle to set up a Non-Lapseable Railway Safety Fund of Rs.17,000 Crores. The detailed modalities for sourcing and operation of fund are being worked out.